

March

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada

NEWS 2019



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

In This Issue

Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada 2

**In Memory of
“Charter Member”.....** 4

**2020 Convention
Date/Location Set** 4

**Ralph Shape’s Collection
for Sale** 5

**Information on Slide
Producer and Slides.....** 8

**About Visual
Instruction Slides** 10

A Shared YouTube Link 11

**2018 Gazette
Issues Posted.....** 14

Click to Check-Out the Lantern Slides for Theatre Advertising & Announcement

Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada

Joe Koch labeled this August 1978 Popular Photography article with: This article turned up many new members!

TIME EXPOSURE from page 62

Magie lanterns and slides for them were very popular items in the late 1800s, and the New York firm of T.H. McAllister was the first important dealer in them in America. That company's catalog from the early 1880s is currently available as a 32-page reprint. Besides magic lanterns and microscopes, it shows such other optical "toys" as the kaleidoscope, anamorphoscope, and zoetrope. This catalog and a chronology of the McAllister family business can be had by sending \$2.50 to N.M. Graver, P.O. Box 18051, Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

For those interested in such optical items as magic lanterns, stereo viewers, zoetropes, and other simple motion devices (thauamatope, phenakistoscope, praxinoscope, etc.), I suggest two "ready-to-make" books which tell and show you how to construct such devices.

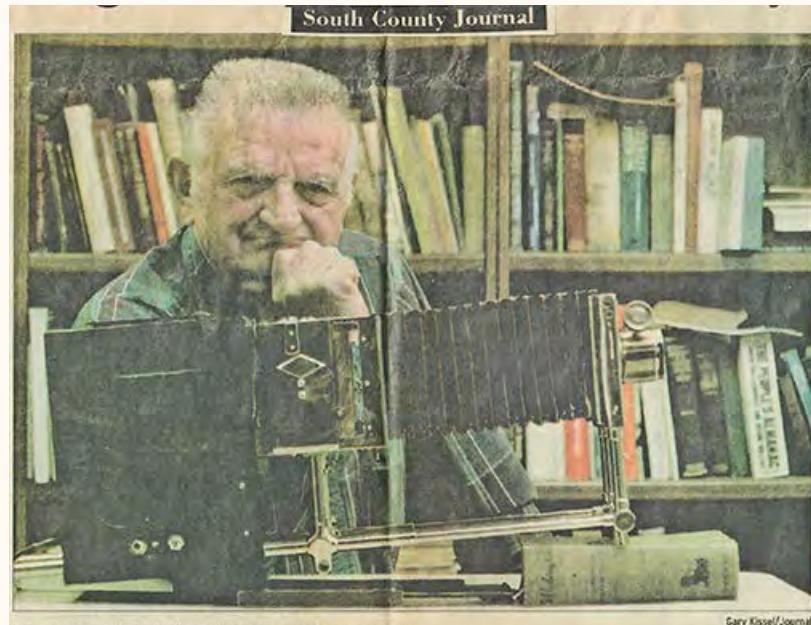
Photo and Scene Machines and *Paper Movie Machines* (see "Critical Focus," POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHY, Dec. 1975), both by Budd Wenz, are published by the Troubador Press (385 Fremont, San Francisco, Ca. 94105). Each costs \$2.50, contains hours of fun, and if not available through your local book or toy store, can probably be gotten from the publisher.

continued on page 76

This magic lantern, advertised in the December 18, 1884, *Youth's Companion*, was sold with both hand-painted and photographic glass slides. The buyer was even supplied with admission tickets and a show bill (sign).



POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHY



Auburn historian Joe Koch at home with his 1904 magic lantern projector.

From Jan 04, 1997 South County Journal, Joe Koch pictured

The official date of founding the society is a bit murky -

But with the first publication in 1979, it seems in later years Joe made statements that he considered 1979 as the start.

From the Leora Woods Wells article that was published in the British Society 10-year book in 1986, it seems there

were 3 members (plus Joe and Alice) in 1977, then it sounds as a result of the Popular Photography article they were up to 30 members. The LWW history lists 1978 as the founding date, although the cover pages produced by our Society says officially founded Jan 1, 1979.



Ed. note: Annual Report handwritten notes from MLS founder Joe Koch, apparently at a Northwest group meeting prior to the first convention in Rochester, 1981

MAGIC LANTERN SHOW INFORMATION

NEEDS

1. Dark room, minimum 20 feet long.
2. Screen 6'X'6' (or sheet, white wall etc.)
3. Power supply 120/110 volts.
4. Table (larger than a card table, same height)
5. Parking space (nearest to entrance).
6. If you eat, we eat...
7. If a long distance and an evening show, 1 nights lodgings and dinner (for 2) plus gas, ferry or bridge fares.
8. Solo Entertainment (we prefer to be the only entertainment) on the bill. If you must have other programs, we must be first.

9. Shows are generally 45 to 60 minutes. Under 45 minutes is not worth while.
10. We have many thousands of slides so content of the show is flexible.
11. We have Mechanical slides: single and double slippers, lever, chromotropes, choreutoscopes, dissolving views etc.
12. Reconfirm with us about a week before show.
13. For further information call 833-7784.
14. Please send us a copy of all publicity, posters, newspaper clippings, flyers etc.

Joe Koch list of Rules and requirements submitted to prospective show venues

ANNUAL REPORT

1 Jan '78 started pulling together; 1 Jan '79 official start (Newsletter, etc.)

Ads in SH ads/Antique Journal/3 photo society publications/ photo magazine

Approximately 250 inquiries & applications sent out. Approximately 50 requests for information including Eastman House, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, Several museums, Holland, England, Argentina, Brazil.

Phone calls from NY, NJ, Mobile-NH, CA. Membership built up slowly. First member Dr. Sidney & Lucille Malitz 26 Jan '78. By 31 Dec we had 26. In 1979; we picked up 18 more. Since 1 Jan 1980 we have picked up 7 more total to date 52 [sic]. As of now 5 delinquents – quality of members.

We have taken in	\$ 637.81
In checking	\$ 360.00
Spent	\$473.53
Treasury owes me	\$195.72+ travel & expenses

1981 Convention in Rochester. ML Society Great Britain canceled. List of ML manufacturers/slide makers send to Nancy Bergh, Minnesota.

Tax free status IRS.

Any questions so far?

New

Need officers –news letter editor contributions to news letter – feedback Shall we continue this organization (ed. note: assume reference to the Northwest group) and meet on a quarterly basis? Semi-annual? Trade, Buy, Sell; palaver formal origination, BC to Portland

continued next page

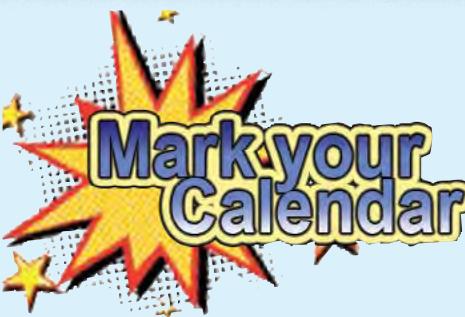
In Memory of “Charter Member”

“The Society regrets to belatedly report the passing of Blanche Owens, one of the founding members of the Society, on October 24, 2015. She was a continual member from the founding of our Society through her death. Blanche Owens was 98 years old.”

Blanche Owens

August 08, 1917 - October 24, 2015

Blanche Elizabeth Owens, PhD
Age 98. Colonel U.S.A.F. Retired, passed away
October 24, 2015. Blanche was born to Robert Leroy
and Jesse Elizabeth (Frazee) Owens on August 8, 1917
in Crowley County, Colorado. She was a pioneering
educator who enjoyed photography and travel among
many other hobbies and interests. A memorial
service will be held at 1:00 PM Thu, Oct. 29, at Prairie
Homestead Senior Living, 1605 May St., Wichita, KS.



*Save the Date!!!
The 2020 Convention of the Magic
Lantern Society will be held*

**June 11-14, 2020
in Cleveland, Ohio**

**More
information
coming in
future E-pubs**

Another YouTube Worth Viewing

From Kentwood Wells

This television program features Erkki Huhtamo on the camera obscura, magic lantern, etc., especially after minute 16.

<https://youtu.be/pdpBEOCwrN4>



As Seen On



Part of Ralph Shape's Collection for Sale

From Lori Spencer
(Ralph's daughter)

Part of Ralph Shape's collection can be seen for sale on ebay.

Listings are now there, but I will take a small break in mid March while out of town.

Each time I've sold something sizable, I let the buyer know about who Dad was and often share the nice bio that once appeared in the MLS bulletin. So above and beyond getting a cool collectible, many people are also hearing about the MLS organization indirectly.



**Items shown
are some of the
listed items on
ebay**

Link Below to items

https://www.ebay.com/sch/lorspence_918/m.html?item=153344668505&rt=nc&_trksid=p2047675.l2562

**Many items
sold, many
more to be
posted!**

From Ron Easterday (Aug 2015)

Ralph was a long standing member of the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada, who we naturally turned to for his steady and quiet leadership over the years.

Ralph's contributions to the Society were many -

- Ralph and Judie attended every one of our biennial conventions since he joined the Society and he helped organize several of them, often taking on the difficult job of Program Director – think herding cats!
- Secretary-Treasurer for 4 years.
- President for 4 years, writing the “President’s Corner” column faithfully for 17 consecutive issues of the Gazette.
- Author of several articles for the Magic Lantern Gazette, MLS of US and Canada convention reports, and reports from several British Conventions, which he and Judie attended.
- Presented at conventions, including winning the Honorable Damer E. Waddington Red Cabbage Award in 2000 at the Hollywood Convention with “The Magic Lantern Goes to War.”

Anyone that was there can never forget the multiple hat changes as Ralph changed historical characters more times than I could count.



Query About an Object in a Tapestry



From: Tom Rall
marketflea@aol.com

Here might be something for the March newsletter!

A friend of ours, Martha Solodky, cc'd, is a docent at Hillwood, a local D.C. museum, who has been mystified by an object depicted in an 18th Century tapestry in the collection. She wants to know how the "magic lantern" depicted in the scene actually works.

A link to a picture of the tapestry is here: <https://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/collection/item/41.1>

The attached description identifies the object as a magic lantern, but later notes a woman looking through a "peephole." How would you and our readers describe the object? What exactly is the device on the top of the



cabinet? I thought it might contain reflecting lens or, more unlikely, be a camera obscura addition to the show?

Thanks.

Tom

From David Evans

Hi Tom and others

Undoubtedly it is a peep show box. They often had multiple viewing lenses so that several people could 'peep' at the same time. The operator may have had draw-strings at the side of the cabinet to change the images inside, or even a crank handle with images mounted on a rollerblind type of substrate so that again, images could be moved inside. The device with the chimney that looks like a magic lantern is the oil-powered illumination for the viewing cabinet. It would have a lamp similar to a magic lantern oil lamp that would improve the brightness of the images.

Somewhat similar scenes can be found in Dick Balzer's book 'Peepshows - a Visual History'. A pity we no longer have Dick to expound in much greater detail.

It is a fine and rare tapestry.

Hope this helps a little.

Kind regards

David

LANTERNS AT THE FAIRGROUND

From Monique Wezenberg

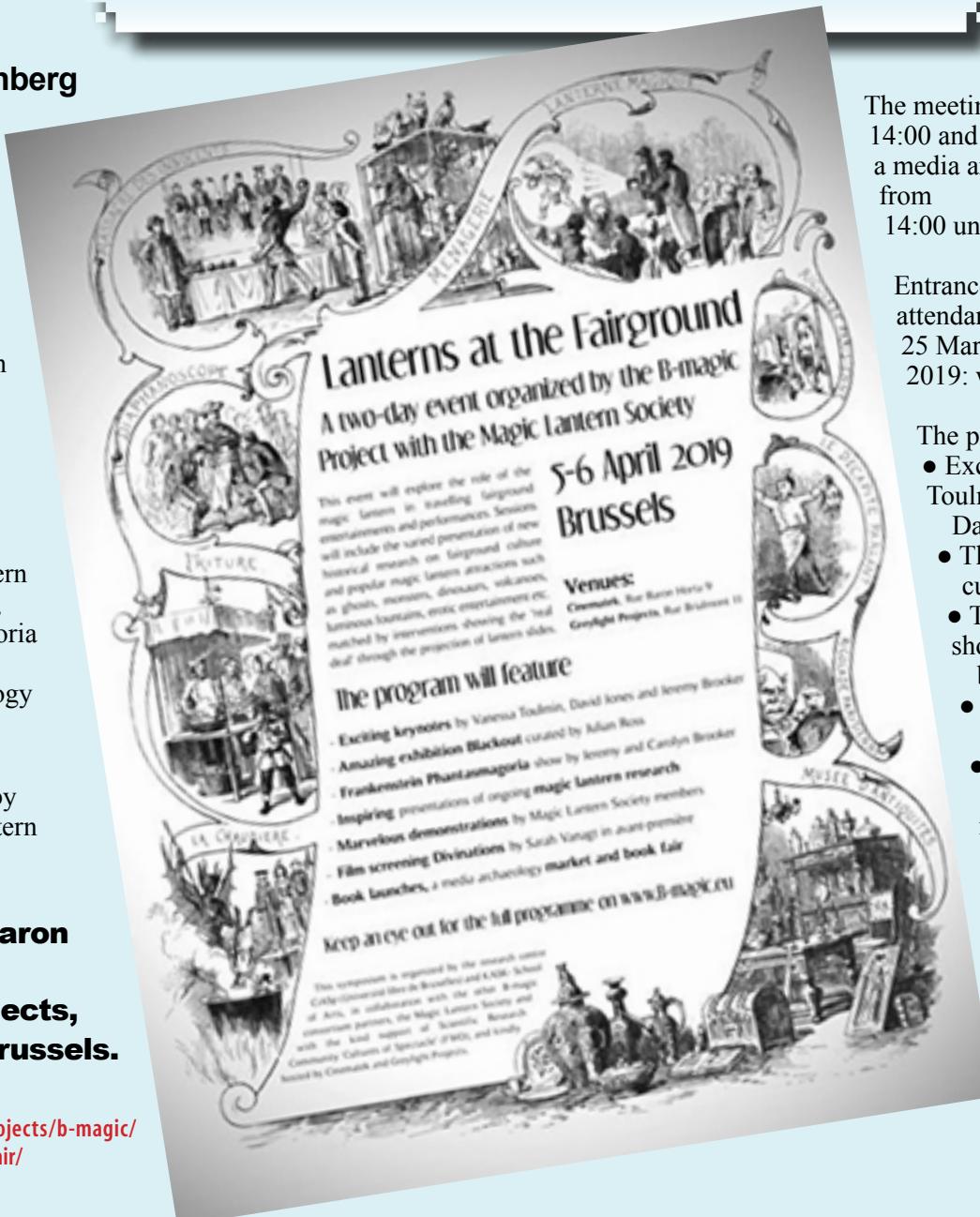
Did you already book?

“Lanterns at the fairground” is a dazzling two-day event full of exciting magic lantern research, activities and experiences! This B-magic event, organized with the #MagicLanternSociety, hosted by Cinematek and Greylight Projects, features scientific presentations, lantern demonstrations, a workshop, an exhibition, a phantasmagoria show, book launches, a film screening, a media archaeology market and many more!

A two-day event organized by B-magic and the Magic Lantern Society in Brussels

5-6 April 2019
Cinematek, Rue Baron Horta 9,
and Greylight Projects,
Rue Brialmont 11, Brussels.

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/b-magic/news-events/events/lanterns-at-the-fair/>



The meeting will start on Friday, 5 April, at 14:00 and finish on Saturday, 6 April, with a media archaeology market and book fair from 14:00 until 17:00.

Entrance is free, but please register your attendance at the B-magic website before 25 March 2019: www.B-magic.eu.

The programme includes:

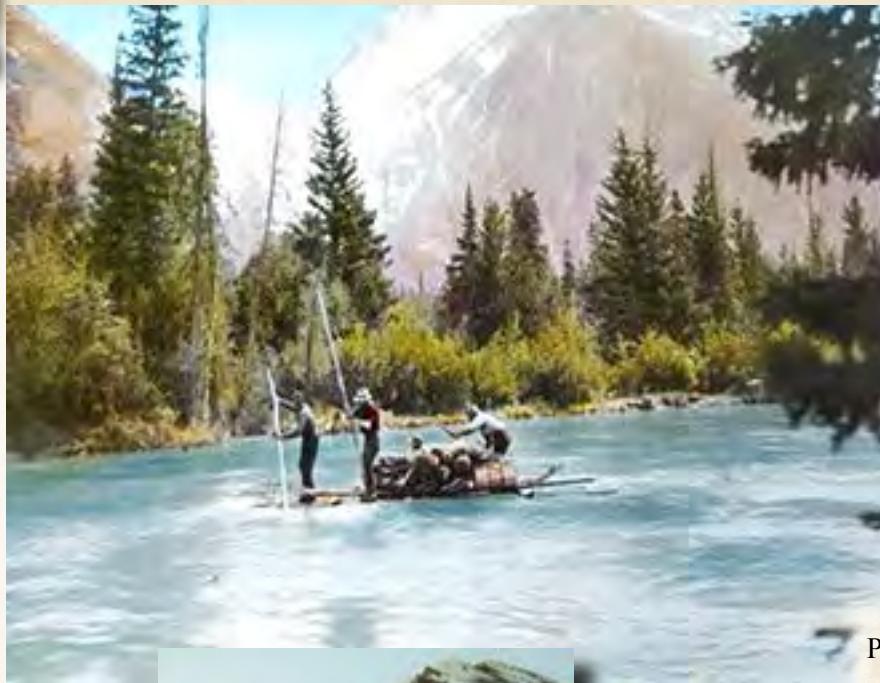
- Exciting keynotes by Vanessa Toulmin, David Jones and Jeremy Brooker;
- The amazing Blackout exhibition curated by Julian Ross;
- The Frankenstein Phantasmagoria show by Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker;
- Inspiring presentations of ongoing magic lantern research;
- Marvelous demonstrations by Magic Lantern Society members;
- Film screening of Divinations by Sarah Vanagt;
- Book launches, a media archaeology market and book fair, and much more.



From Steve Barnes

I am helping sorting slides in the Fleshman Pre-Cinema Collection at the UNO's Nims Center in New Orleans, LA. As part of their collection of slides there is a large group (80+) of high quality slides with the label: Edward Van Altena, 71-79 W. 45th St., NYC. They are all outdoor shots & most are in mountains with snow &/or glaciers & many have people in them, most in color. It appears that they may be documenting some sort of winter trip (adventure) into the mountains. There are standard US size slides & are professionally

Need Information on Slide Producer and Slides



produced. Do you have any info on this slide producer &/or any idea of the lecture topic that these slides were used for. I have attached several images from the group.

Steve Barnes

Please e-mail Larry so we can share your knowledge of Edward Van Altena
designerlc@comcast.net



Compliment
Re: MLS of US & C
E-Publication



From jeremy brooker
jrbrooker@hotmail.com

To: secretary-treasurer@magicianternsociety.org <secretary-treasurer@magicianternsociety.org>
Sent: Mon, Feb 4, 2019 3:43 am
Subject:
Thanks David. Usual high standard!

Best wishes
Jeremy

From David Evans

Thank you Jeremy. We do our best!
Regards
David

Information **Request**

From Steve Barnes
thesteve4@yahoo.com

This is the notice MLS (UK) is putting in their magazine/Epub for us to try & get some personal info on Bob, with his photos attached. Can you do something like this in our Epub to see if any of the long time members remember him. We did find a membership card from 1978, I don't know who was in our society that far back. Bob is the one on the left in the earlier photo. These are the best photos we have been able to find of him, not in his Mime Makeup.

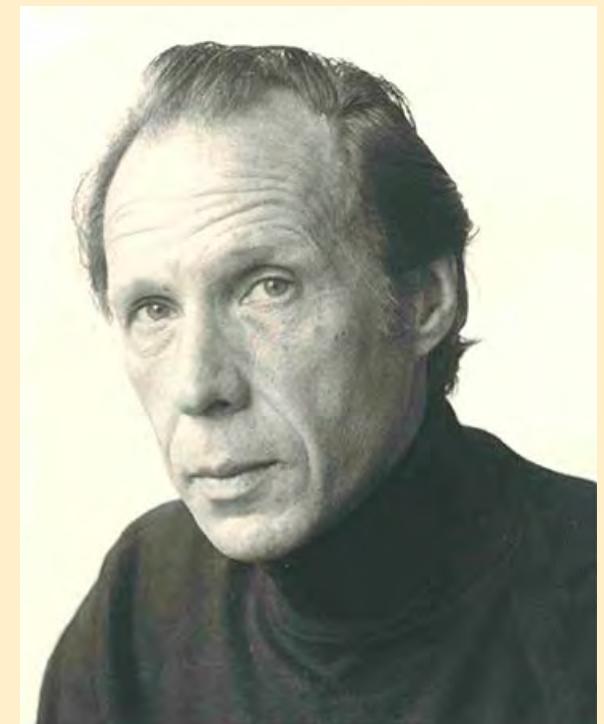
Steve

BOB FLESHMAN was listed as a member in the 1985 membership directory

BOB FLESHMAN

Members who went to the 2016 Convention of the US and Canada Magic Lantern Society will recall the very memorable visit, organized by Steve Barnes, to the University of New Orleans Nims Center and the Robert Fleshman pre-cinema collection of magic lantern and optical devices now housed there. The collection arrived in 2013 and most is sorted and on display, thanks to Steve, his colleagues and in particular Roger Benischeck at the Nims Center who has organized the

About BOB FLESHMAN



work. But Steve would appreciate some help from fellow members. They have very little personal insight into Bob and his passion for collecting. He was a member of both societies and on occasion also bought items in the UK. If anyone has any recollections, anecdotes or stories about Bob please get in touch with Steve (thesteve4@yahoo.com) and/or Roger (roger@nimscenter.com).



MORE

From Paul Schweizer, Ph.D.

Dear Mr. Rall:

Your letter in the latest issue of the Magic Lantern Society's newsletter about the New York State Department of Visual Instruction lantern slides you just acquired caught my attention. I am a museum professional researching how the reputation and fame of the early 19th century American landscape painter, Thomas Cole (1801-48), was perpetuated by the lantern slides that were made of his paintings around the turn of the 20th century. You are probably aware of the set of four lantern slides that show up in the marketplace from time to time that reproduce Cole's famous, allegorical series, "The Voyage of Life," which are in my institution's permanent collection and are the primary focus of my research.

Some time ago I came across an online reference from one of the University of the State of New York's Education Dept. Bulletins (in a section titled "American Paintings") listing two other paintings by Cole, "In the Catskills" and "Roman Aqueduct" that the NYS Educ. Dept. produced as lantern slides. My hunch is that these two slides were made from paintings in the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art that have different titles. I wanted to send you the link to this reference and am embarrassed to say that I can't find it again online. I must be using an incorrect or out-of-date URL, and the State's online resources are something of a maze.

About Visual Instruction Slides

Long story short, would you please let me know if you ever come across these two slides in your collection. I recognize that this is something of a long shot. And if they do turn up, but you do not want to sell them, perhaps you'd allow me to make arrangements to have high-quality digital images made of each of them.

Thanks for your help. I am sending a copy of this message to David Evans, who was kind enough to send me your email address.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Schweizer, Ph.D.
Museum Director Emeritus
Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute
Museum of Art
(315) 269-3276
pschweiz@mwpai.edu

From Tom Rall

Hi Paul,

Thanks for your query.

Perhaps the state of the NY Archives online maze is one of the reasons I'm unaware of any serious research as yet into the wonderful and extensive production of lantern slides by the NY Department of Visual Instruction. And I doubt that more than a fraction of the collection has yet been scanned. As I believe the archives has nearly all of the department's slides in storage, there is certainly a thesis, if not several, waiting there in Albany.

I've been both a collector and dealer of the slides for nearly 20 years and have handled a few thousand in that span prior to my recent purchase of 10,000 or so

out of a Schenectady area estate. Briefly, my observation is that they were in production from roughly 1895 to the late 1930s, around the introduction of the less-cumbersome Kodak slide film in the 35mm format.

I am only about a quarter of the way through sorting the recent lantern slides purchase, but already have seen at least a few dozen with the "American Painting" titled series. And I have probably seen at least 200-300 more of related series, "Dutch Painting," "Spanish Painting," etc. Since my collecting interest is primarily in its photographic slide production, I did not look at any of these too thoroughly, though I did pull a couple dozen hand colored ones from the American Painting series for my inventory, which I priced \$3-\$4 each with some resell last Fall. The remainder that didn't go into inventory now reside in a large bin in my basement, perhaps to be bulked out at 25 cents each some where down the road.

Unfortunately, I did not specifically notice any by Cole, though I did see several with Metropolitan Museum attribution. As I sort through the rest, I shall keep my eyes open for you. In the meantime, if you're ever in the D.C. area feel free to come by and dig for yourself--a standing invitation to any society member!

Tom

Tom Rall, Member
Magic Lantern Society
1101 N Kentucky St
Arlington, VA 22205
703-534-8220

Tesseract Update



TESSERACT

Box 151
Hastings-on-Hudson
New York 10706 USA

telephone: 1-914-478-2594
e-mail: mail@etesseract.com
web site: <http://www.etesseract.com>



<http://www.etesseract.com/C107.pdf>

Hello,

We have just added 28 good items to our website (www.etesseract.com). They are in all categories, with emphasis on drawing and drafting instruments. An additional dozen instruments are back from museum exhibition loan, and are now available. Our latest catalogues are also online, for download, including our special issue "Optical Pleasures"



<http://www.etesseract.com/C108.pdf>

(<http://www.etesseract.com/C107.pdf>) and our Winter issue (<http://www.etesseract.com/C108.pdf>).

Thank you for your interest.

Regards,
David & Yola

David & Yola Coffeen, Ph.D.'s
TESSERACT
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Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
1-914-478-2594
mail@etesseract.com

A Shared YouTube Link

From Sue Truman

Thomas Weynants, a Magic Lantern Collector

Published on Feb 8, 2019

Thomas Weynants is an internationally acknowledged collector of wondrous visual media devices and the founder of the website visual-media.be. Thomas holds several unique magique lantern devices, slide sets and curiosities. In this video he throws light on his fascination for the magic lantern.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xJHWKo21BU&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1J3YtuD_xyS2xh2VsdM7iFwMAr7vCqh-w744ICK8ik2XFFzsjXDnTu-650



Magic Lantern and Slide Sale



From Mark Devens

markdevens99@gmail.com

Hi

I have had a magic lantern and slides for many years. I feel it would be enjoyed by someone more involved in the collection and preservation than I.

Attached are the photos of the lantern. I can find no markings of any kind. I am not sure if the lens is correct for this lantern. I would appreciate any information that can be provided and am willing to allow it to be listed for sale...though I must confess I am not sure what a fair price is.

Thanks

Mark Devens
Lombard IL

From David Evans

Hi Mark

It is good to have the box for the lantern. Can't see much of the slide detail, but some of them look colourful. The slipping sides (moving ones) often make \$30 or more each, depending on condition. Hard to say about the rest of the slides, as complete sets are obviously more desirable than orphaned images. I see you are located in Illinois. We can hope that a member living in the area might be interested and could help you sort them out.

Thank you for these images too, and good luck.

Regards

David



MEMBER

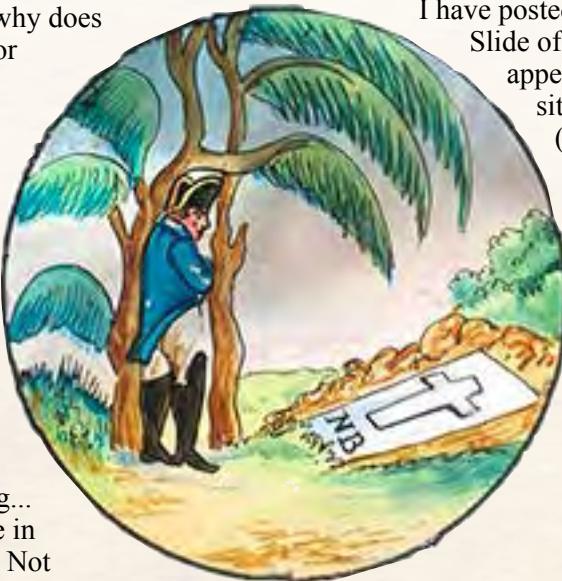
Request

Dissolve Set - Napoleon Powerless

From John Gallaro

Some of you may wonder - why does this guy have a fascination for Napoleon Bonaparte?

Well way back in the 1980s I had the opportunity to go to a screening of the restored silent film - Napoleon by Abel Gance - in Paris. Originally made in 1927 - the screening of this movie had a huge impact on me - the innovative techniques that Gance used to create this epic film were mind boggling... and the original running time in 1927 was 5 and a half hours. Not only that but towards the end of the film, Gance used a panorama triptych effect - with the blue, white and red colours across the screen - with the live orchestra playing "La Marseillaise" - the audience instantly rose to their feet and sang the anthem proudly and loudly - I have to admit that there were goosebumps on my arms and tears in my eyes - from that point on I was hooked!



I have posted a British Slip Slide of Napoleon appearing at his grave site at Saint Helena (in spite of the fact that the British defeated Napoleon at Waterloo - there was still a fascination with him in the UK)



The second slide is part of a Dissolve set - Napoleon Powerless - I do not have the other slide of the set where Napoleon is gazing at his troops. I have posted images of a Morgan Protean Scenery - circa 1840 - which demonstrates the effect - Napoleon Powerless and Powerful. To The Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada FB group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/407347156096502/>

If there is anyone out there that has the missing slide from the Dissolve set please let me know - I realize that it is like looking for a needle in a haystack!

John email junglearrow@sympatico.ca

A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

Steve Barnes
Jeremy Brooker
Mark Devens
Ron Easterday
David & Lesley Evans
John Gallaro
Tom Rall
Larry Rakow
Brian Rogers
Paul Schweizer, Ph.D.
Lori Spencer
Sue Truman
Kentwood Wells
Monique Wezenberg

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry



2018 Gazette Issues Posted

From Kentwood Wells

The 2018 issues of The Magic Lantern Gazette have now been posted in full color at:

<https://library.sdsu.edu/scua/digital/resources/magic-lantern-pubs/gazette#2018>

Date	Issue	Format
Fall/Winter 2018	Volume 30, no. 3-4	PDF (9.42 MB)
Summer 2018	Volume 30, no. 2	PDF (4.86 MB)
Spring 2018	Volume 30, no. 1	PDF (4.92 MB)



REMINDER

**Last E-Pub
you will receive if you
have not renewed!**

This is the time of year when we all have to pay our dues to Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada. The subscription is still US\$40 for regular members, US\$25 for student members and US\$25 for the first year if you haven't joined yet. Last year most of you were very prompt with your payments, and we are always grateful for that - thank you! Let us see if we can do even better this year!

You can pay by PayPal to secretary@magiclanternsociety.org, by cash (US\$ please) or by check (also US\$) made payable to Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada, and these should be mailed to:

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of USA & Canada

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